Why Charter Schools USA?

Synopsis of Recommended Intervention

- The most recurring theme from the community hearing at Thomas Carr Howe Community High School was the need to engage the community and families in the school. This sentiment was expressed by representatives from multiple key stakeholder groups, including teachers, parents, and community members.

- The need to engage community and family members was also highlighted in the school quality review conducted over the past two academic years.

- Other school quality indicators were also assessed as unacceptable or poor during these two years of quality reviews. That most indicators were rated poor in both 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 raises concerns about the lack of improvement in these essential quality indicators. Moreover, those indicators that were not rated the same both years mostly went from poor to unacceptable across this time span.

- In terms of student-level data, all key academic measures are well below the state average, with the exception of the percentage of students taking AP exams. However, while a commendable number of students are taking these exams, the percentage of students passing AP exams in 2010 was 1.0%.

- Given the pervasive areas for improvement identified and supported by both student- and school-level data, it is recommended that Charter Schools USA be assigned as a Turnaround School Operator for Thomas Carr Community High School.

- Charter Schools USA (CSUSA) is the most appropriate Turnaround School Operator for Thomas Carr Community High School for a number of reasons.
  - CSUSA has a robust, research-based approach to family and community engagement, which will address stated concerns about this vital element of the school.
  - 95% of CSUSA's schools earned an "A" or "B" rating in 2010-2011.
  - All of CSUSA's schools made AYP with the lowest 25% of their students in both reading and math.
    - Minority and economically disadvantaged students in CSUSA's schools far outperform the state average in reading and math proficiency.